

ZENECA/FORMER STAUFFER CHEMICAL SITE
Richmond, CA
December 23, 2004 - Project Update

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's weekly Project Status Update for the Zeneca/former Stauffer Chemical Site normally issued on Friday afternoon will be issued on Monday, December 27 and January 3, because of the Holidays.

Although the detailed report will be issued on Monday, this message will inform you of the actions that occurred earlier today, December 23.

DTSC staff was on-site from 10 AM to 2 PM to observe the contractor mixing lime with the excavated marsh sediments. The lime looks like gravel. Mixing lime with the sediments removes the free water thus solidifying the material so that it can be transported to a landfill. Mixing lime with water will result in a chemical reaction that produces steam. The material cannot be taken to a landfill until all the free liquids have been removed.

The contractor took the lime stored at the edge (but in) the upland stockpile area and spread it on top of the excavated marsh sediments. The heavy equipment was then used to mix the sediment with the lime. When the heavy equipment approached the lime pile, it pulverized the lime gravel into dust. The movement of the equipment then caused clouds of lime dust. Decreasing the speed of the equipment and how the lime was added, did not reduce the dust. At 12:30 PM, Barbara Cook from DTSC, asked the contractor to stop adding lime to the sediment until a different approach could be developed. The contractor was allowed to continue using the heavy equipment to mix the lime already added. Steam but no dust was produced. The downwind dust meters at the property line did not show any significant increase of particulates during this time.

At approximately 1:30 PM, a different piece of equipment, an excavator, was brought to the stockpile. The bucket from the excavator was able to scoop up the lime, place it into the excavated sediments and stir it around. Wetter excavated material was moved into this mixing zone to continue the process to solidify the sediments. This resulted in more steam but very little dust. No dust left the stockpiled area.

Between Noon and 1:30 PM today, Diane Fowler of DTSC, made telephone calls to businesses adjacent to the area and to individuals in the Marina Bay residential area explaining the process described above and what they might see at the site today.

Field activities will occur seven days a week except on Saturday, December 25 and January 1. The direct hauling offsite of the excavated marsh material will begin at the site on December 27. DTSC will have trained staff onsite (Monday through Friday) while direct haul activities are taking place. Real-time air monitoring will be conducted during this work.